

Night 7

Highlights from Surah Al-An'aam

Revealed in Makkah about a year before Prophet Muhammad (S) Hijrah to Madinah, this surah invites people to Islam. This is a time of extreme persecution for the tiny Muslim community in Makkah. To escape persecution some Muslims have migrated to Habashah (Abyssinia, present day Ethiopia). Two big supporters of the Prophet (S) – beloved wife Khadijah (RA) and uncle Abu Talib – have passed away and the Quraish now feel more emboldened to harm the Prophet (S) and his followers.

Important Theme:

One of the important themes is the story of Ibrahim (AS) and his search for the Creator. Ibrahim (AS) reaches the conclusion that only Allaah (SWT) is the Creator because all other things fade away. This is a very powerful argument against shirk of the people of Makkah during the time of Prophet Muhammad (S).

The surah also:

1. Exposes the falsehood of shirk and invites to Tawhid (Oneness of God.)
2. Informs about the reality of the "life-after-death" and the Day of Judgment.
3. Lays down some of the fundamental principle of an Islamic society
4. Gives comfort to those suffering because of no reason other than saying La Ilaaха Illallaah.
5. Tells Muslims not to be divided into sects. Division is unacceptable and harmful
6. Tells the People of the Book that "Those to whom We have given the Scripture (Jews and Christians) recognize him (Muhammad (S) as a Messenger of Allaah) as they recognize their own sons. Those who destroy themselves will not believe."
7. Commands the believers through the Prophet (S) to make prayer, their sacrifice, their living and dying for Allaah (SWT) the Lord of the worlds